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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 39/02, A01N 43/04, C07H 21/04, C07K 1/00, 16/00, C12N 15/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/38714 (43) International Publication Date: 23 October 1997 (23.10.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/06446		(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 18 April 1997 (18.04.97)		Published <i>With international search report.</i>	
(30) Priority Data: 9607991.8 18 April 1996 (18.04.96) GB			
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(54) Title: NOVEL COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract

This invention provides proS polypeptides and DNA (RNA) encoding proS polypeptides and methods for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques. Also provided are methods for utilizing proS polypeptides to screen for antibacterial compounds.

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NOVEL COMPOUNDS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of UK application number 9607991.8, filed April 18, 1996.

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

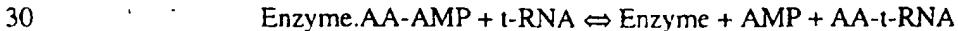
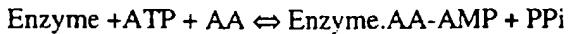
This invention relates to newly identified polynucleotides and polypeptides, and their production and uses, as well as their variants, agonists and antagonists, and their uses. In particular, in these and in other regards, the invention relates to novel polynucleotides and polypeptides of the prolyl tRNA synthetase family, hereinafter referred to as "proS".

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The Streptococci make up a medically important genera of microbes known to cause several types of disease in humans, including, for example, otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural empyema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid. Since its 15 isolation more than 100 years ago, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* has been one of the more intensively studied microbes. For example, much of our early understanding that DNA is, in fact, the genetic material was predicated on the work of Griffith and of Avery, Macleod and McCarty using this microbe. Despite the vast amount of research with *S. pneumoniae*, many questions concerning the virulence of this microbe remain. It is particularly preferred to 20 employ Streptococcal genes and gene products as targets for the development of antibiotics.

The frequency of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections has risen dramatically in the past 20 years. This has been attributed to the emergence of multiply antibiotic resistant strains and an increasing population of people with weakened immune systems. It is no longer uncommon to isolate *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strains which are resistant to some or all of 25 the standard antibiotics. This has created a demand for both new anti-microbial agents and diagnostic tests for this organism.

The t-RNA synthetases have a primary role in protein synthesis according to the following scheme:



in which AA is an amino acid.

Inhibition of this process leads to a reduction in the levels of charged t-RNA and this triggers a cascade of responses known as the stringent response, the result of which is the

induction of a state of dormancy in the organism. As such selective inhibitors of bacterial t-RNA synthetase have potential as antibacterial agents. One example of such is mupirocin which is a selective inhibitor of isoleucyl t-RNA synthetase. Other t-RNA synthetases are now being examined as possible anti-bacterial targets, this process being greatly assisted by 5 the isolation of the synthetase.

Clearly, there is a need for factors, such as the novel compounds of the invention, that have a present benefit of being useful to screen compounds for antibiotic activity. Such factors are also useful to determine their role in pathogenesis of infection, dysfunction and disease. There is also a need for identification and characterization of such factors and their 10 antagonists and agonists which can play a role in preventing, ameliorating or correcting infections, dysfunctions or diseases.

The polypeptides of the invention have amino acid sequence homology to a known *Escherichia coli* prolyl tRNA synthetase protein.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 It is an object of the invention to provide polypeptides that have been identified as novel proS polypeptides by homology between an amino acid sequence set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO: 2] and a known amino acid sequence or sequences of other proteins such as *Escherichia coli* prolyl tRNA synthetase protein.

20 It is a further object of the invention to provide polynucleotides that encode proS polypeptides, particularly polynucleotides that encode the polypeptide herein designated proS.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention the polynucleotide comprises a region encoding proS polypeptides comprising a sequence set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3], or a variant thereof.

25 In another particularly preferred embodiment of the invention there is a novel proS protein from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* comprising an amino acid sequence of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4], or a variant thereof.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention there is provided an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mature polypeptide expressible by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 strain contained in the deposited strain.

30 A further aspect of the invention there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding proS, particularly *Streptococcus pneumoniae* proS, including mRNAs, cDNAs, genomic DNAs. Further embodiments of the invention include biologically, diagnostically,

prophylactically, clinically or therapeutically useful variants thereof, and compositions comprising the same.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, there is provided the use of a polynucleotide of the invention for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes, in particular 5 genetic immunization. Among the particularly preferred embodiments of the invention are naturally occurring allelic variants of proS and polypeptides encoded thereby.

Another aspect of the invention there are provided novel polypeptides of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* referred to herein as proS as well as biologically, diagnostically, prophylactically, clinically or therapeutically useful variants thereof, and compositions 10 comprising the same.

Among the particularly preferred embodiments of the invention are variants of proS polypeptide encoded by naturally occurring alleles of the proS gene.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention there are provided methods for producing the aforementioned proS polypeptides.

15 In accordance with yet another aspect of the invention, there are provided inhibitors to such polypeptides, useful as antibacterial agents, including, for example, antibodies.

In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the invention, there are provided products, compositions and methods for assessing proS expression, treating disease, for example, otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural 20 empyema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid, assaying genetic variation, and administering a proS polypeptide or polynucleotide to an organism to raise an immunological response against a bacteria, especially a *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria.

In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of this and other aspects of the 25 invention there are provided polynucleotides that hybridize to proS polynucleotide sequences, particularly under stringent conditions.

In certain preferred embodiments of the invention there are provided antibodies against proS polypeptides.

In other embodiments of the invention there are provided methods for identifying 30 compounds which bind to or otherwise interact with and inhibit or activate an activity of a polypeptide or polynucleotide of the invention comprising: contacting a polypeptide or polynucleotide of the invention with a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to or other interaction between the compound and the polypeptide or polynucleotide

to assess the binding to or other interaction with the compound, such binding or interaction being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding or interaction of the polypeptide or polynucleotide with the compound; and determining whether the compound binds to or otherwise interacts with and 5 activates or inhibits an activity of the polypeptide or polynucleotide by detecting the presence or absence of a signal generated from the binding or interaction of the compound with the polypeptide or polynucleotide.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the invention, there are provided proS agonists and antagonists, preferably bacteriostatic or bacteriocidal agonists and antagonists.

10 In a further aspect of the invention there are provided compositions comprising a proS polynucleotide or a proS polypeptide for administration to a cell or to a multicellular organism.

15 Various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the disclosed invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from reading the following descriptions and from reading the other parts of the present disclosure.

GLOSSARY

The following definitions are provided to facilitate understanding of certain terms used frequently herein.

20 "Host cell" is a cell which has been transformed or transfected, or is capable of transformation or transfection by an exogenous polynucleotide sequence.

"Identity," as known in the art, is a relationship between two or more polypeptide sequences or two or more polynucleotide sequences, as determined by comparing the sequences. In the art, "identity" also means the degree of sequence relatedness between polypeptide or polynucleotide sequences, as the case may be, as determined by the match 25 between strings of such sequences. "Identity" and "similarity" can be readily calculated by known methods, including but not limited to those described in (*Computational Molecular Biology*, Lesk, A.M., ed., Oxford University Press, New York, 1988; *Biocomputing: Informatics and Genome Projects*, Smith, D.W., ed., Academic Press, New York, 1993; *Computer Analysis of Sequence Data*, Part I, Griffin, A.M., and Griffin, H.G., eds., Humana 30 Press, New Jersey, 1994; *Sequence Analysis in Molecular Biology*, von Heinje, G., Academic Press, 1987; and *Sequence Analysis Primer*, Gribskov, M. and Devereux, J., eds., M Stockton Press, New York, 1991; and Carillo, H., and Lipman, D., *SIAM J. Applied Math.*, 48: 1073 (1988). Preferred methods to determine identity are designed to give the

largest match between the sequences tested. Methods to determine identity and similarity are codified in publicly available computer programs. Preferred computer program methods to determine identity and similarity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, the GCG program package (Devereux, J., et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 12(1): 387 (1984)), BLASTP, BLASTN, and FASTA (Altschul, S.F. et al., *J. Molec. Biol.* 215: 403-410 (1990). The BLAST X program is publicly available from NCBI and other sources (*BLAST Manual*, Altschul, S., et al., NCBI NLM NIH Bethesda, MD 20894; Altschul, S., et al., *J. Mol. Biol.* 215: 403-410 (1990). As an illustration, by a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence having at least, for example, 95% "identity" to 5 a reference nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 it is intended that the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide is identical to the reference sequence except that the polynucleotide sequence may include up to five point mutations per each 100 nucleotides 10 of the reference nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. In other words, to obtain a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a reference 15 nucleotide sequence, up to 5% of the nucleotides in the reference sequence may be deleted or substituted with another nucleotide, or a number of nucleotides up to 5% of the total nucleotides in the reference sequence may be inserted into the reference sequence. These mutations of the reference sequence may occur at the 5 or 3 terminal positions of the 20 reference nucleotide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among nucleotides in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. Analogously, by a polypeptide having 25 an amino acid sequence having at least, for example, 95% identity to a reference amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is intended that the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is identical to the reference sequence except that the polypeptide sequence may include up to five amino acid alterations per each 100 amino acids of the reference amino acid of SEQ 30 ID NO: 2. In other words, to obtain a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a reference amino acid sequence, up to 5% of the amino acid residues in the reference sequence may be deleted or substituted with another amino acid, or a number of amino acids up to 5% of the total amino acid residues in the reference sequence may be inserted into the reference sequence. These alterations of the reference sequence may occur at the amino or carboxy terminal positions of the reference amino acid sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among residues

in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence.

"Isolated" means altered "by the hand of man" from its natural state, *i.e.*, if it occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For 5 example, a polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living organism is not "isolated," but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is "isolated", as the term is employed herein.

"Polynucleotide(s)" generally refers to any polyribonucleotide or polydeoxyribonucleotide, which may be unmodified RNA or DNA or modified RNA or DNA. 10 "Polynucleotide(s)" include, without limitation, single- and double-stranded DNA, DNA that is a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions or single-, double- and triple-stranded regions, single- and double-stranded RNA, and RNA that is mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, hybrid molecules comprising DNA and RNA that may be single-stranded or, more typically, double-stranded, or triple-stranded regions, or a mixture of single- and double- 15 stranded regions. In addition, "polynucleotide" as used herein refers to triple-stranded regions comprising RNA or DNA or both RNA and DNA. The strands in such regions may be from the same molecule or from different molecules. The regions may include all of one or more of the molecules, but more typically involve only a region of some of the molecules. One of the molecules of a triple-helical region often is an oligonucleotide. As used herein, the term 20 "polynucleotide(s)" also includes DNAs or RNAs as described above that contain one or more modified bases. Thus, DNAs or RNAs with backbones modified for stability or for other reasons are "polynucleotide(s)" as that term is intended herein. Moreover, DNAs or RNAs comprising unusual bases, such as inosine, or modified bases, such as tritylated bases, to name just two examples, are polynucleotides as the term is used herein. It will be appreciated that a 25 great variety of modifications have been made to DNA and RNA that serve many useful purposes known to those of skill in the art. The term "polynucleotide(s)" as it is employed herein embraces such chemically, enzymatically or metabolically modified forms of polynucleotides, as well as the chemical forms of DNA and RNA characteristic of viruses and cells, including, for example, simple and complex cells. "Polynucleotide(s)" also embraces 30 short polynucleotides often referred to as oligonucleotide(s).

"Polypeptide(s)" refers to any peptide or protein comprising two or more amino acids joined to each other by peptide bonds or modified peptide bonds. "Polypeptide(s)" refers to both short chains, commonly referred to as peptides, oligopeptides and oligomers and to

longer chains generally referred to as proteins. Polypeptides may contain amino acids other than the 20 gene encoded amino acids. "Polypeptide(s)" include those modified either by natural processes, such as processing and other post-translational modifications, but also by chemical modification techniques. Such modifications are well described in basic texts and in more detailed monographs, as well as in a voluminous research literature, and they are well known to those of skill in the art. It will be appreciated that the same type of modification may be present in the same or varying degree at several sites in a given polypeptide. Also, a given polypeptide may contain many types of modifications. Modifications can occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains, and the amino or carboxyl termini. Modifications include, for example, acetylation, acylation, ADP-ribosylation, amidation, covalent attachment of flavin, covalent attachment of a heme moiety, covalent attachment of a nucleotide or nucleotide derivative, covalent attachment of a lipid or lipid derivative, covalent attachment of phosphotidylinositol, cross-linking, cyclization, disulfide bond formation, demethylation, formation of covalent cross-links, formation of cysteine, formation of pyroglutamate, formylation, gamma-carboxylation, glycosylation, GPI anchor formation, hydroxylation, iodination, methylation, myristylation, oxidation, proteolytic processing, phosphorylation, prenylation, racemization, glycosylation, lipid attachment, sulfation, gamma-carboxylation of glutamic acid residues, hydroxylation and ADP-ribosylation, selenylation, sulfation, transfer-RNA mediated addition of amino acids to proteins, such as arginylation, and ubiquitination. See, for instance, *PROTEINS - STRUCTURE AND MOLECULAR PROPERTIES*, 2nd Ed., T. E. Creighton, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York (1993) and Wold, F., *Posttranslational Protein Modifications: Perspectives and Prospects*, pgs. 1-12 in *POSTTRANSLATIONAL COVALENT MODIFICATION OF PROTEINS*, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York (1983); Seifert et al., *Meth. Enzymol.* 182:626-646 (1990) and Rattan et al., *Protein Synthesis: Posttranslational Modifications and Aging*, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 663: 48-62 (1992). Polypeptides may be branched or cyclic, with or without branching. Cyclic, branched and branched circular polypeptides may result from post-translational natural processes and may be made by entirely synthetic methods, as well.

"Variant(s)" as the term is used herein, is a polynucleotide or polypeptide that differs from a reference polynucleotide or polypeptide respectively, but retains essential properties. A typical variant of a polynucleotide differs in nucleotide sequence from another, reference polynucleotide. Changes in the nucleotide sequence of the variant may

or may not alter the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. Nucleotide changes may result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence, as discussed below. A typical variant of a polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence from another, reference polypeptide. Generally, differences are limited so that the sequences of the reference polypeptide and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical. A variant and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions in any combination. A substituted or inserted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code. A variant of a polynucleotide or polypeptide may be a naturally occurring such as an allelic variant, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Non-naturally occurring variants of polynucleotides and polypeptides may be made by mutagenesis techniques, by direct synthesis, and by other recombinant methods known to skilled artisans.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to novel proS polypeptides and polynucleotides as described in greater detail below. In particular, the invention relates to polypeptides and polynucleotides of a novel proS of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which is related by amino acid sequence homology to *Escherichia coli* prolyl tRNA synthetase polypeptide. The invention relates especially to proS having the nucleotide and amino acid sequences set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO: 1, 3] and Table 1 [SEQ ID NO: 2, 4] respectively, and to the proS nucleotide sequences of the DNA in the deposited strain and amino acid sequences encoded thereby.

TABLE 1
proS Polynucleotide and Polypeptide Sequences

25

(A) Sequences from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* proS polynucleotide sequence [SEQ ID NO:1].

5'-1 ATGAAACAAA GTAAAATGCC TATCCCAACG CTTCGCGAAA TGCCAAGCGA

30

51 TGCTCAAGTT ATCAGCCATG CTCTTATGTT GCGTGCTGGT TATGTTCGCC

101 AAGTTTCAGC AGGTGTTTAT TCTTATCTAC CACTTGCCAA CCGTGTGATT

151 GAAAAAGCTA AAAACATCAT GCGCCAAGAA TTTCGAAAAGA TTGGTGCTGT

35

201 TGAGATGTTG GCTCCAGCCC TTCTTAGTGC AGAATTGTGG CGTGAATCAG
251 GTCGTTACGA AACCTATGGT GAAGACCTTT ACAAACTGAA AAACCGTGA
5 301 AAATCAGACT TTATCTTAGG TCCAACTCAC GAAGAAACCT TTACAGCTAT
351 TGTCCGTGAT TCTGTTAAAT CTTACAAGCA ATTGCCACTC AACCTTTATC
401 AAATTCAGCC CAAGTATCGT GATGAAAAAC GCCCACGTA TGGACTTCTT
10 451 CGTACACGTG AGTTTATCAT GAAGGATGCT TATAGTTCC ACGCTAACTA
501 TGATAGTTG GATAGTGTGTT ATGATGAGTA CAAAGCAGCC TATGAGCGTA
15 551 TTTTCACTCG TAGTGGTTA GACTTCAAGG CTATTATTGG TGACGGTGG
601 GCCATGGGTG GTAAGGATAG CCAAGAATTG ATGGCCATTA GGCCTATCTG
651 CCGTACAGAC CTTGACCGCT GGGTTGTCTT GGACAAGTCA GTTGCCTCAT
20 701 TTGACGAAAT TCCTGCAGAA GTGCAAGAAG AAATCAAGGC AGAATTGCTC
751 AAATGGATAG TCTCTGGTGA AGATACCATT GCTTACTCAA GTGAGTCTAG
25 801 CTATGCAGCT AACTTAGAAA TGGCAACAAA CGAGTACAAA CCAAGCAACC
851 GTGTTGTCGC TGAAGAAGAA GTTACTCGTG TTGAAACGCC AGATGTTAAA
901 TCAATTGATG AAGTTGCAGC CTTCCCTCAAT GTTCCAGAAG AACAAACGAT
30 951 TAAAACCCCTC TTCTACATTG CAGATGGTGA GCTTGTGCA GCCCTTCTAG
1001 TTGGAAATGA CCAACTCAAC GAAGTCAAGT TGAAAAATCA CTTGGGAGCA
35 1051 AATTTCTTTG ACGTTGCTAG CGAAGAAGAA GTGGCGAATG TTGTTCAAGC
1101 AGGATTTGGT TCACTTGGAC CAGTTGGTTT GCCAGAGAAT ATTAAAATTA
1151 TTGCAGATCG TAAGGTGCAA GATGTTCGCA ATGCAGTTGT CGGTGCTAAC
40 1201 GAAGATGGCT ACCACTTGAC TGGTGTGAAC CCAGGCCGTG ATTTTACTGC
1251 AGAATATGTG GATATCCGTG AAGTTCGTGA GGGTGAAATT TCCCCAGATG

1301 GACAAGGTGT CCTTAACCTT GCGCGTGGTA TTGAGATCGG TCATATTTTC
 1351 AACTCGGAA CTCGCTATTC AGCAAGCATG GGAGCAGATG TCTTGGATGA
 5 1401 AAATGGTCGT GCTGTGCCAA TCATCATGGG ATGTTACGGT ATCGGTGTCA
 1451 GCCGTCTTCT TTCAGCAGTG ATGGAGAAC ACGCTCGCCT CTTTGTAAAC
 1501 AAAACGCCAA AAGGTGAATA CCGTTACGCT TGGGAATCA ATTCCTAA
 10 1551 AGAATTGGCA CCATTTGATG TGCATTTGAT TACTGTTAAT GTCAAGGATG
 1601 AAGAAGCGCA AGCCTTGACA GAAAAACTTG AAGCAAGCTT GATGGGAGAT
 15 1651 C-3'

(B) proS polypeptide sequence deduced from the polynucleotide sequence in this table [SEQ ID NO:2].

NH₂-1 MKQSKMPIPT LREMPSDAQV ISHALMLRAG YVRQVSAGVY SYLPLANRVI
 20 51 EKAKNIMRQE FEKIGAVEML APALLSAELW RESGRYETYG EDLYKLKNRE
 101 KSDFILGPTH EETFTAIVRD SVKSYKQLPL NLYQIQPKYR DEKPRRNGLL
 25 151 RTREFIMKDA YSFHANYDSL DSVYDEYKAA YERIFTRSGL DFKAIIGDGG
 201 AMGGKDSQEF MAIRPICRTD LDRVVVLDKS VASFDEIPAE VQEEIKAELL
 251 KWIVSGEDTI AYSSESSYYAA NLEMATNEYK PSNRVVAEEE VTRVETPDVK
 30 301 SIDEVAAFLN VPEEQTIKTL FYIADGELVA ALLVGNQDQLN EVKLKNHLGA
 351 NFFDVASEEE VANVVQAGFG SLGPVGLPEN IKIIADRKVQ DVRNAVVGAN
 35 401 EDGYHLTGVN PGRDFTAELYV DIREVREGEI SPDGQGVLFN ARGIEIGHIF
 451 KLGTRYSASM GADVLDENGR AVPIIIMGCGYIGVSRLLSAV MEQHARLFVN
 40 401 KTPKGEYRYA WGINFPKELA PFDVHLITVN VKDEEAQALT EKLEASLMGD-
 40 COOH

(C) Polynucleotide sequence embodiments [SEQ ID NO:1].

$X - (R_1)_{n-1}$ ATGAAACAAA GTAAAATGCC TATCCCAACG CTTCGCGAAA TGCCAAGCGA

5 51 TGCTCAAGTT ATCAGCCATG CTCTTATGTT GCGTGCTGGT TATGTTCGCC

101 101 AAGTTTCAGC AGGTGTTAT TCTTATCTAC CACTGCCAA CCGTGTGATT

151 151 GAAAAAGCTA AAAACATCAT GCGCCAAGAA TTCGAAAAGA TTGGTGCTGT

10 201 TGAGATGTTG GCTCCAGCCC TTCTTAGTGC AGAATTGTGG CGTGAATCAG

251 251 GTCGTTACGA AACCTATGGT GAAGACCTTT ACAAACTGAA AAACCGTGAA

301 301 AAATCAGACT TTATCTTAGG TCCAACTCAC GAAGAAACCT TTACAGCTAT

15 351 351 TGTCCGTGAT TCTGTTAAAT CTTACAAGCA ATTGCCACTC AACCTTTATC

401 401 AAATTCAAGCC CAAGTATCGT GATGAAAAAC GCCCACGTAA TGGACTTCTT

20 451 451 CGTACACGTG AGTTTATCAT GAAGGGATGCT TATAGTTTCC ACGCTAACTA

501 501 TGATAGTTG GATAGTGTGTT ATGATGAGTA CAAAGCAGCC TATGAGCGTA

551 551 TTTTCACTCG TAGTGGTTA GACTTCAAGG CTATTATTGG TGACGGTGGA

25 601 601 GCCATGGGTG GTAAGGATAG CCAAGAATTG ATGGCCATTA GGCCTATCTG

651 651 CCGTACAGAC CTTGACCGCT GGGTTGTCTT GGACAAGTCA GTTGCCTCAT

30 701 701 TTGACGAAAT TCCTGCAGAA GTGCAAGAAG AAATCAAGGC AGAATTGCTC

751 751 AAATGGATAG TCTCTGGTGA AGATACCATT GCTTACTCAA GTGAGTCTAG

801 801 CTATGCAGCT AACTTAGAAA TGGCAACAAA CGAGTACAAA CCAAGCAACC

35 851 851 GTGTTGTCGC TGAAGAAGAA GTTACTCGTG TTGAAACGCC AGATGTTAAA

901 901 TCAATTGATG AAGTTGCAGC CTTCCCTCAAT GTTCCAGAAG AACAAACGAT

40 951 951 TAAAACCCCTC TTCTACATTG CAGATGGTGA GCTTGTGCA GCCCTTCTAG

1001 1001 TTGGAAATGA CCAACTCAAC GAAGTCAACT TGAAAATCA CTTGGGAGCA

1051 1051 AATTCTTTG ACGTTGCTAG CGAAGAAGAA GTGGCGAATG TTGTTCAAGC

1101 AGGATTTGGT TCACTTGGAC CAGTTGGTTT GCCAGAGAAT ATTAAAATTA
 1151 TTGCAGATCG TAAGGTGCAA GATGTTCGCA ATGCAGTTGT CGGTGCTAAC
 5
 1201 GAAGATGGCT ACCACTTGAC TGGTGTGAAC CCAGGCCGTG ATTTTACTGC
 1251 AGAATATGTG GATATCCGTG AAGTTCGTGA GGGTGAAATT TCCCCAGATG
 10
 1301 GACAAGGTGT CCTTAACCTT GCGCGTGGTA TTGAGATCGG TCATATTTTC
 1351 AAACTCGGAA CTCGCTATTC AGCAAGCATG GGAGCAGATG TCTTGGATGA
 1401 AAATGGTCGT GCTGTGCCAA TCATCATGGG ATGTTACGGT ATCGGTGTCA
 15
 1451 GCGCTCTTCTT TTCAGCAGTC ATGGAGCAAC ACGCTCGCCT CTTTGTAAAC
 1501 AAAACGCCAA AAGGTGAATA CCGTTACGCT TGGGGAATCA ATTCCTCAA
 20
 1551 AGAATTGGCA CCATTTGATG TGCATTTGAT TACTGTTAAT GTCAAGGATG
 1601 AAGAAGCGCA AGCCTTGACA GAAAAACTTG AAGCAAGCTT GATGGGAGAT
 1651 C- (R₂)_n-Y
 25

(D) Polypeptide sequence embodiments [SEQ ID NO:2].

X- (R₁)_{n-1} MKQSKMPIPT LREMPSDAQV ISHALMLRAG YVRQVSAGVY SYLPLANRVI

30
 51 EKAKNIMRQE FEKIGAVEML APALLSAELW RESGRYETYG EDLYKLKNRE
 101 KSDFILGPTH EETFTAIVRD SVKSYKQLPL NLYQIQPKYR DEKRPRNGLL
 151 RTREFIMKDA YSFHANYDSL DSVYDEYKAA YERIFTRSGL DFKAIIGDGG
 35
 201 AMGGKDSQEF MAIRPICRTD LDRVVVLDKS VASFDEIPAE VQEEIKAELL
 251 KWIVSGEDTI AYSSESSYAA NLEMATNEYK PSNRVVAEEE VTRVETPDVK
 40
 301 SIDEVAAFLN VPEEQTIKTL FYIADGELVA ALLVGNDQLN EVKLKNHLGA
 351 NFFDVASEEE VANVVQAGFG SLGPVGLPEN IKIIADRKVQ DVRNAVVGAN
 401 EDGYHLTGVN PGRDFTAELYV DIREVREGEI SPDGQGVLFN ARGIEIGHIF

451 KLGTRYASASM GADVLDENGR AVPIIMGCYG IGVSRLLSAV MEQHARLFVN

501 KTPKGEYRYA WGINFPKELA PFDVHLITVN VKDEEAQALT EKLEASLMGD-
(R₂)_n-Y

5

(E) Polynucleotide sequence embodiment [SEQ ID NO:3].

5'-1 TTGAAAAAGC TAAAAAAACAT CATGCGCAA GAATTCGAAA AGATTGGTGC

51 TGGTGGAGATG TTGGCTCCAG CCCTTCTTAG TGCAGAATTG TGGCGTGAAT
10

101 CAGGTGCGTTA CGAAACGTAT GGTGAAGACC TTTACAAACT GAAAAAACCGT

151 GAAAAATCAG ACTTTATCTT AGGTCCAACt CACGAAGAAA CCTTTACAGC

15 201 TATTGTCCGT GATTCTGTTA AATCTTACAA GCAATTGCCA CTCAACCTTT

251 ATCAAATTCA GCCCAAGTAT CGTGATGAAA AACGCCACG TAATGGACTT

301 CTTCGTACAC GTGAGTTTAT CATGAAGGAT GCTTATAGTT TCCACGCTAA
20

351 CTATGATAGT TTGGATAGTG TTTATGATGA GTACAAAGCA GCCTATGAGC

401 GTATTTCAC TCGTAGTGGT TTAGACTTCA AGGCTATTAT TGGTGACGGT

25 451 GGAGCCATGG GTGGTAAGGA TAGCCAAGAA TTTATGG-3'

(F) Polypeptide sequence embodiment [SEQ ID NO:4].

NH₂-1 LKKLKNIMRQ EFEKIGAVEM LAPALLSAEL WRESGRYETY GEDLYKLKNR

30 51 EKSDFILGPT HEETFTAIVR DSVKSYKQLP LNLYQIQPKY RDEKPRRNGL

101 LRTREFIMKD AYSFHANYDS LDSVYDEYKA AYERIFTRSG LDFKAIIGDG

151 GAMGGKDSQE FM-COOH

35

Deposited materials

A deposit containing a *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 strain has been deposited with the National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria Ltd. (herein "NCIMB"), 23 St. Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB2 1RY, Scotland on 11 April 1996 and assigned deposit number 40794. The deposit was described as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 on deposit.

On 17 April 1996 a *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 DNA library in *E. coli* was similarly deposited with the NCIMB and assigned deposit number 40800. The *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strain deposit is referred to herein as "the deposited strain" or as "the DNA of the deposited strain."

5 The deposited strain contains the full length proS gene. The sequence of the polynucleotides contained in the deposited strain, as well as the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded thereby, are controlling in the event of any conflict with any description of sequences herein.

10 The deposit of the deposited strain has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for Purposes of Patent Procedure. The strain will be irrevocably and without restriction or condition released to the public upon the issuance of a patent. The deposited strain is provided merely as convenience to those of skill in the art and is not an admission that a deposit is required for enablement, such as that required under 35 U.S.C. §112.

15 A license may be required to make, use or sell the deposited strain, and compounds derived therefrom, and no such license is hereby granted.

Polypeptides

20 The polypeptides of the invention include polypeptides of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] (in particular the mature polypeptide) as well as polypeptides and fragments, particularly those which have the biological activity of proS, and also those which have at least 70% identity to a polypeptide of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] or the relevant portion, preferably at least 80% identity to a polypeptide of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4], and more preferably at least 90% similarity (more preferably at least 90% identity) to a polypeptide of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] and still more preferably at least 95% similarity (still more preferably at least 95% identity) to a polypeptide of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] and also include portions of such polypeptides with such portion of the polypeptide generally containing at least 30 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids.

30 The invention also includes polypeptides of the formula set forth in Table 1 (D) wherein, at the amino terminus, X is hydrogen, and at the carboxyl terminus, Y is hydrogen or a metal, R₁ and R₂ is any amino acid residue, and n is an integer between 1 and 1000. Any stretch of amino acid residues denoted by either R group, where R is greater than 1, may be either a heteropolymer or a homopolymer, preferably a heteropolymer.

A fragment is a variant polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that entirely is the same as part but not all of the amino acid sequence of the aforementioned polypeptides. As with proS polypeptides fragments may be "free-standing," or comprised within a larger polypeptide of which they form a part or region, most preferably as a single continuous 5 region, a single larger polypeptide.

Preferred fragments include, for example, truncation polypeptides having a portion AN amino acid sequence of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4], or of variants thereof, such as a continuous series of residues that includes the amino terminus, or a continuous series of residues that includes the carboxyl terminus. Degradation forms of the polypeptides of the 10 invention in a host cell, particularly a *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, are also preferred. Further preferred are fragments characterized by structural or functional attributes such as fragments that comprise alpha-helix and alpha-helix forming regions, beta-sheet and beta-sheet-forming regions, turn and turn-forming regions, coil and coil-forming regions, hydrophilic regions, hydrophobic regions, alpha amphipathic regions, beta amphipathic regions, flexible regions, 15 surface-forming regions, substrate binding region, and high antigenic index regions.

Also preferred are biologically active fragments which are those fragments that mediate activities of proS, including those with a similar activity or an improved activity, or with a decreased undesirable activity. Also included are those fragments that are antigenic or immunogenic in an animal, especially in a human. Particularly preferred are fragments 20 comprising receptors or domains of enzymes that confer a function essential for viability of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or the ability to initiate, or maintain cause disease in an individual, particularly a human.

Variants that are fragments of the polypeptides of the invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length polypeptide by peptide synthesis; therefore, these 25 variants may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length polypeptides of the invention.

Polynucleotides

Another aspect of the invention relates to isolated polynucleotides that encode the proS polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] and 30 polynucleotides closely related thereto and variants thereof.

Using the information provided herein, such as a polynucleotide sequence set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3], a polynucleotide of the invention encoding proS polypeptide may be obtained using standard cloning and screening methods, such as those for cloning and

sequencing chromosomal DNA fragments from bacteria using *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 cells as starting material, followed by obtaining a full length clone. For example, to obtain a polynucleotide sequence of the invention, such as a sequence given in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3], typically a library of clones of chromosomal DNA of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 in *E.coli* or some other suitable host is probed with a radiolabeled oligonucleotide, preferably a 17-mer or longer, derived from a partial sequence. Clones carrying DNA identical to that of the probe can then be distinguished using stringent conditions. By sequencing the individual clones thus identified with sequencing primers designed from the original sequence it is then possible to extend the sequence in both directions to determine the full gene sequence. Conveniently, such sequencing is performed using denatured double stranded DNA prepared from a plasmid clone. Suitable techniques are described by Maniatis, T., Fritsch, E.F. and Sambrook et al., *MOLECULAR CLONING, A LABORATORY MANUAL*, 2nd Ed.; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989). (see in particular Screening By Hybridization 1.90 and Sequencing Denatured Double-Stranded DNA Templates 13.70). Illustrative of the invention, each polynucleotide set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3] was discovered in a DNA library derived from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993.

The DNA sequences set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3] each contain an open reading frame encoding a protein having about the number of amino acid residues set forth in

Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4 respectively] with a deduced molecular weight that can be calculated using amino acid residue molecular weight values well known in the art. The start codon of the DNA in Table 1 is nucleotide number 1 and the codon that encodes an last amino acid is number 1648, the stop codon being the next codon following this last codon encoding an amino acid (nucleotides 1649-1651).

proS of the invention is structurally related to other proteins of the prolyl tRNA synthetase family, as shown by the results of sequencing the DNA encoding proS of the deposited strain. The protein exhibits greatest homology to *Escherichia coli* prolyl tRNA synthetase protein among known proteins. proS of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2] has about 48% identity over its entire length and about 67% similarity over its entire length with the amino acid sequence of *Escherichia coli* prolyl tRNA synthetase polypeptide.

The invention provides a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence identical over its entire length to a coding sequence in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1, 3]. Also provided by the invention is the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide or a fragment

thereof, by itself as well as the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide or a fragment in reading frame with other coding sequence, such as those encoding a leader or secretory sequence, a pre-, or pro- or prepro- protein sequence. The polynucleotide may also contain non-coding sequences, including for example, but not limited to non-coding 5' and 3' sequences, such as the transcribed, non-translated sequences, termination signals, ribosome binding sites, sequences that stabilize mRNA, introns, polyadenylation signals, and additional coding sequence which encode additional amino acids. For example, a marker sequence that facilitates purification of the fused polypeptide can be encoded. In certain embodiments of the invention, the marker sequence is a hexa-histidine peptide, as provided in the pQE vector 5 (Qiagen, Inc.) and described in Gentz *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA* 86: 821-824 (1989), or an HA tag (Wilson *et al.*, *Cell* 37: 767 (1984). Polynucleotides of the invention also include, but are not limited to, polynucleotides comprising a structural gene and its naturally 10 associated sequences that control gene expression.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is the polynucleotide comprising nucleotide 15 1 to 1648 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 of Table 1 which encodes the proS polypeptide.

The invention also includes polynucleotides of the formula set forth in Table 1 (C) wherein, at the 5' end of the molecule, X is hydrogen, and at the 3' end of the molecule, Y is hydrogen or a metal, R₁ and R₂ is any nucleic acid residue, and n is an integer between 1 and 1000. Any stretch of nucleic acid residues denoted by either R group, where R is greater than 20 1, may be either a heteropolymer or a homopolymer, preferably a heteropolymer.

The term "polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide" as used herein encompasses polynucleotides that include a sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention, particularly a bacterial polypeptide and more particularly a polypeptide of the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* proS comprising an amino acid sequence set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4]. The term also 25 encompasses polynucleotides that include a single continuous region or discontinuous regions encoding the polypeptide (for example, interrupted by integrated phage or an insertion sequence or editing) together with additional regions, that also may contain coding and/or non-coding sequences.

The invention further relates to variants of the polynucleotides described herein that 30 encode for variants of the polypeptide comprising a deduced amino acid sequence of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4]. Variants that are fragments of the polynucleotides of the invention may be used to synthesize full-length polynucleotides of the invention.

Further particularly preferred embodiments are polynucleotides encoding proS variants, that comprising an amino acid sequence of proS polypeptide of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4] in which several, a few, 5 to 10, 1 to 5, 1 to 3, 2, 1 or no amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination. Especially preferred among these are silent 5 substitutions, additions and deletions, that do not alter the properties and activities of proS.

Further preferred embodiments of the invention are polynucleotides that are at least 70% identical over their entire length to a polynucleotide encoding proS polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set out in Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:2, 4], and polynucleotides that are complementary to such polynucleotides. Alternatively, most highly preferred are 10 polynucleotides that comprise a region that is at least 80% identical over its entire length to a polynucleotide encoding proS polypeptide of the deposited strain and polynucleotides complementary thereto. In this regard, polynucleotides at least 90% identical over their entire length to the same are particularly preferred, and among these particularly preferred polynucleotides, those with at least 95% are especially preferred. Furthermore, those with at 15 least 97% are highly preferred among those with at least 95%, and among these those with at least 98% and at least 99% are particularly highly preferred, with at least 99% being the more preferred.

Preferred embodiments are polynucleotides that encode polypeptides that retain substantially the same biological function or activity as the mature polypeptide encoded by 20 the DNA of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO:1].

The invention further relates to polynucleotides that hybridize to the herein above-described sequences. In this regard, the invention especially relates to polynucleotides that hybridize under stringent conditions to the herein above-described polynucleotides. As herein used, the terms "stringent conditions" and "stringent hybridization conditions" mean 25 hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. An example of stringent hybridization conditions is overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5x SSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 micrograms/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA, followed by 30 washing the hybridization support in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C. Hybridization and wash conditions are well known and exemplified in Sambrook, *et al.*, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), particularly Chapter 11 therein.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide consisting essentially of a polynucleotide sequence obtainable by screening an appropriate library containing the complete gene for a polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe having the sequence of said polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 respectively or a fragment thereof; and isolating said DNA sequence. Fragments useful for obtaining such a polynucleotide include, for example, probes and primers described elsewhere herein.

As discussed additionally herein regarding polynucleotide assays of the invention, for instance, polynucleotides of the invention as discussed above, may be used as a hybridization probe for RNA, cDNA and genomic DNA to isolate full-length cDNAs and genomic clones encoding proS and to isolate cDNA and genomic clones of other genes that have a high sequence similarity to the proS gene. Such probes generally will comprise at least 15 bases. Preferably, such probes will have at least 30 bases and may have at least 50 bases. Particularly preferred probes will have at least 30 bases and will have 50 bases or less.

For example, the coding region of the proS gene may be isolated by screening using the DNA sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3 to synthesize an oligonucleotide probe. A labeled oligonucleotide having a sequence complementary to that of a gene of the invention is then used to screen a library of cDNA, genomic DNA or mRNA to determine which members of the library the probe hybridizes to.

The polynucleotides and polypeptides of the invention may be employed, for example, as research reagents and materials for discovery of treatments of and diagnostics for disease, particularly human disease, as further discussed herein relating to polynucleotide assays.

Polynucleotides of the invention that are oligonucleotides derived from the sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1 and/or 2 and/or 3 and/or 4 may be used in the processes herein as described, but preferably for PCR, to determine whether or not the polynucleotides identified herein in whole or in part are transcribed in bacteria in infected tissue. It is recognized that such sequences will also have utility in diagnosis of the stage of infection and type of infection the pathogen has attained.

The invention also provides polynucleotides that may encode a polypeptide that is the mature protein plus additional amino or carboxyl-terminal amino acids, or amino acids interior to the mature polypeptide (when the mature form has more than one polypeptide chain, for instance). Such sequences may play a role in processing of a protein from precursor

to a mature form, may allow protein transport, may lengthen or shorten protein half-life or may facilitate manipulation of a protein for assay or production, among other things. As generally is the case *in vivo*, the additional amino acids may be processed away from the mature protein by cellular enzymes.

5 A precursor protein, having the mature form of the polypeptide fused to one or more prosequences may be an inactive form of the polypeptide. When prosequences are removed such inactive precursors generally are activated. Some or all of the prosequences may be removed before activation. Generally, such precursors are called proproteins.

10 In sum, a polynucleotide of the invention may encode a mature protein, a mature protein plus a leader sequence (which may be referred to as a preprotein), a precursor of a mature protein having one or more prosequences that are not the leader sequences of a preprotein, or a preproprotein, which is a precursor to a proprotein, having a leader sequence and one or more prosequences, which generally are removed during processing steps that produce active and mature forms of the polypeptide.

15 **Vectors, host cells, expression**

The invention also relates to vectors that comprise a polynucleotide or polynucleotides of the invention, host cells that are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs 20 derived from the DNA constructs of the invention.

For recombinant production, host cells can be genetically engineered to incorporate expression systems or portions thereof or polynucleotides of the invention. Introduction of a polynucleotide into the host cell can be effected by methods described in many standard laboratory manuals, such as Davis et al., *BASIC METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*, 25 (1986) and Sambrook et al., *MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL*, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989), such as, calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-dextran mediated transfection, transvection, microinjection, cationic lipid-mediated transfection, electroporation, transduction, scrape loading, ballistic introduction and infection.

30 Representative examples of appropriate hosts include bacterial cells, such as streptococci, staphylococci, enterococci *E. coli*, streptomycetes and *Bacillus subtilis* cells; fungal cells, such as yeast cells and *Aspergillus* cells; insect cells such as *Drosophila* S2 and

Spodoptera Sf9 cells; animal cells such as CHO, COS, HeLa, C127, 3T3, BHK, 293 and Bowes melanoma cells; and plant cells.

A great variety of expression systems can be used to produce the polypeptides of the invention. Such vectors include, among others, chromosomal, episomal and virus-derived vectors, *e.g.*, vectors derived from bacterial plasmids, from bacteriophage, from transposons, from yeast episomes, from insertion elements, from yeast chromosomal elements, from viruses such as baculoviruses, papova viruses, such as SV40, vaccinia viruses, adenoviruses, fowl pox viruses, pseudorabies viruses and retroviruses, and vectors derived from combinations thereof, such as those derived from plasmid and bacteriophage genetic elements, such as cosmids and phagemids. The expression system constructs may contain control regions that regulate as well as engender expression. Generally, any system or vector suitable to maintain, propagate or express polynucleotides and/or to express a polypeptide in a host may be used for expression in this regard. The appropriate DNA sequence may be inserted into the expression system by any of a variety of well-known and routine techniques, such as, for example, those set forth in Sambrook *et al.*, *MOLECULAR CLONING, A LABORATORY MANUAL*, (*supra*).

For secretion of the translated protein into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum, into the periplasmic space or into the extracellular environment, appropriate secretion signals may be incorporated into the expressed polypeptide. These signals may be endogenous to the polypeptide or they may be heterologous signals.

Polypeptides of the invention can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by well-known methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography, and lectin chromatography. Most preferably, high performance liquid chromatography is employed for purification. Well known techniques for refolding protein may be employed to regenerate active conformation when the polypeptide is denatured during isolation and or purification.

Diagnostic Assays

This invention is also related to the use of the proS polynucleotides of the invention for use as diagnostic reagents. Detection of proS in a eukaryote, particularly a mammal, and especially a human, will provide a diagnostic method for diagnosis of a disease. Eukaryotes (herein also "individual(s)"), particularly mammals, and especially humans, infected with an

organism comprising the proS gene may be detected at the nucleic acid level by a variety of techniques.

Nucleic acids for diagnosis may be obtained from an infected individual's cells and tissues, such as bone, blood, muscle, cartilage, and skin. Genomic DNA may be used directly 5 for detection or may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR or other amplification technique prior to analysis. RNA or cDNA may also be used in the same ways. Using amplification, characterization of the species and strain of prokaryote present in an individual, may be made by an analysis of the genotype of the prokaryote gene. Deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the genotype of 10 a reference sequence. Point mutations can be identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to labeled proS polynucleotide sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase digestion or by differences in melting temperatures. DNA sequence differences may also be detected by alterations in the electrophoretic mobility 15 of the DNA fragments in gels, with or without denaturing agents, or by direct DNA sequencing. See, e.g., Myers et al., *Science*, 230: 1242 (1985). Sequence changes at specific locations also may be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or a chemical cleavage method. See, e.g., Cotton et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 85: 4397-4401 (1985).

20 Cells carrying mutations or polymorphisms in the gene of the invention may also be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques, to allow for serotyping, for example. For example, RT-PCR can be used to detect mutations. It is particularly preferred to used RT-PCR in conjunction with automated detection systems, such as, for example, GeneScan. RNA or cDNA may also be used for the same purpose, PCR or RT-PCR. As an example, PCR 25 primers complementary to a nucleic acid encoding proS can be used to identify and analyze mutations. The invention further provides these primers with 1, 2, 3 or 4 nucleotides removed from the 5' and/or the 3' end. These primers may be used for, among other things, amplifying proS DNA isolated from a sample derived from an individual. The primers may be used to amplify the gene isolated from an infected individual such that the gene may then 30 be subject to various techniques for elucidation of the DNA sequence. In this way, mutations in the DNA sequence may be detected and used to diagnose infection and to serotype and/or classify the infectious agent.

The invention further provides a process for diagnosing, disease, preferably bacterial infections, more preferably infections by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and most preferably otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural empyema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid, comprising determining from a sample derived from an individual a increased level of expression of polynucleotide having a sequence of Table 1 [SEQ ID NO: 1, 3]. Increased or decreased expression of proS polynucleotide can be measured using any one of the methods well known in the art for the quantitation of polynucleotides, such as, for example, amplification, PCR, RT-PCR, RNase protection, Northern blotting and other 10 hybridization methods.

In addition, a diagnostic assay in accordance with the invention for detecting over-expression of proS protein compared to normal control tissue samples may be used to detect the presence of an infection, for example. Assay techniques that can be used to determine levels of a proS protein, in a sample derived from a host are well-known to those of skill in the 15 art. Such assay methods include radioimmunoassays, competitive-binding assays, Western Blot analysis and ELISA assays.

Antibodies

The polypeptides of the invention or variants thereof, or cells expressing them can be used as an immunogen to produce antibodies immunospecific for such polypeptides. 20 "Antibodies" as used herein includes monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, chimeric, single chain, simianized antibodies and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, including the products of an Fab immunoglobulin expression library.

Antibodies generated against the polypeptides of the invention can be obtained by administering the polypeptides or epitope-bearing fragments, analogues or cells to an animal, 25 preferably a nonhuman, using routine protocols. For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique known in the art that provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include various techniques, such as those in Kohler, G. and Milstein, C., *Nature* 256: 495-497 (1975); Kozbor *et al.*, *Immunology Today* 4: 72 (1983); Cole *et al.*, pg. 77-96 in *MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AND CANCER THERAPY*, Alan R. 30 Liss, Inc. (1985).

Techniques for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to polypeptides of this invention. Also,

transgenic mice, or other organisms such as other mammals, may be used to express humanized antibodies.

Alternatively phage display technology may be utilized to select antibody genes with binding activities towards the polypeptide either from repertoires of PCR amplified v- 5 genes of lymphocytes from humans screened for possessing anti-proS or from naive libraries (McCafferty, J. et al., (1990), *Nature* 348, 552-554; Marks, J. et al., (1992) *Biotechnology* 10, 779-783). The affinity of these antibodies can also be improved by chain shuffling (Clackson, T. et al., (1991) *Nature* 352, 624-628).

10 If two antigen binding domains are present each domain may be directed against a different epitope - termed 'bispecific' antibodies.

The above-described antibodies may be employed to isolate or to identify clones expressing the polypeptides to purify the polypeptides by affinity chromatography.

15 Thus, among others, antibodies against proS- polypeptide may be employed to treat infections, particularly bacterial infections and especially otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural empyema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid.

20 Polypeptide variants include antigenically, epitopically or immunologically equivalent variants that form a particular aspect of this invention. The term "antigenically equivalent derivative" as used herein encompasses a polypeptide or its equivalent which will be specifically recognized by certain antibodies which, when raised to the protein or polypeptide according to the invention, interfere with the immediate physical interaction 25 between pathogen and mammalian host. The term "immunologically equivalent derivative" as used herein encompasses a peptide or its equivalent which when used in a suitable formulation to raise antibodies in a vertebrate, the antibodies act to interfere with the immediate physical interaction between pathogen and mammalian host.

30 The polypeptide, such as an antigenically or immunologically equivalent derivative or a fusion protein thereof is used as an antigen to immunize a mouse or other animal such as a rat or chicken. The fusion protein may provide stability to the polypeptide. The antigen may be associated, for example by conjugation, with an immunogenic carrier protein for example bovine serum albumin (BSA) or keyhole limpet haemocyanin (KLH). Alternatively a multiple antigenic peptide comprising multiple copies of the protein or polypeptide, or an antigenically or immunologically equivalent polypeptide thereof may be sufficiently antigenic to improve immunogenicity so as to obviate the use of a carrier.

Preferably, the antibody or variant thereof is modified to make it less immunogenic in the individual. For example, if the individual is human the antibody may most preferably be "humanized"; where the complimentarity determining region(s) of the hybridoma-derived antibody has been transplanted into a human monoclonal antibody, for example as described in Jones, P. et al. (1986), *Nature* 321, 522-525 or Tempest et al., (1991) *Biotechnology* 9, 266-273.

The use of a polynucleotide of the invention in genetic immunization will preferably employ a suitable delivery method such as direct injection of plasmid DNA into muscles (Wolff et al., *Hum Mol Genet* 1992, 1:363, Manthorpe et al., *Hum. Gene Ther.* 1963:4, 419), delivery of DNA complexed with specific protein carriers (Wu et al., *J Biol Chem.* 1989: 264,16985), coprecipitation of DNA with calcium phosphate (Benvenisty & Reshef, *PNAS*, 1986:83,9551), encapsulation of DNA in various forms of liposomes (Kaneda et al., *Science* 1989:243,375), particle bombardment (Tang et al., *Nature* 1992, 356:152, Eisenbraun et al., *DNA Cell Biol* 1993, 12:791) and *in vivo* infection using cloned retroviral vectors (Seeger et al., *PNAS* 1984:81,5849).

Antagonists and agonists - assays and molecules

Polypeptides of the invention may also be used to assess the binding of small molecule substrates and ligands in, for example, cells, cell-free preparations, chemical libraries, and natural product mixtures. These substrates and ligands may be natural substrates and ligands or may be structural or functional mimetics. See, e.g., Coligan et al., *Current Protocols in Immunology* 1(2): Chapter 5 (1991).

The invention also provides a method of screening compounds to identify those which enhance (agonist) or block (antagonist) the action of proS polypeptides or polynucleotides, particularly those compounds that are bacteriostatic and/or bacteriocidal. The method of screening may involve high-throughput techniques. For example, to screen for agonists or antagonists, a synthetic reaction mix, a cellular compartment, such as a membrane, cell envelope or cell wall, or a preparation of any thereof, comprising proS polypeptide and a labeled substrate or ligand of such polypeptide is incubated in the absence or the presence of a candidate molecule that may be a proS agonist or antagonist. The ability of the candidate molecule to agonize or antagonize the proS polypeptide is reflected in decreased binding of the labeled ligand or decreased production of product from such substrate. Molecules that bind gratuitously, i.e., without inducing the effects of proS polypeptide are most likely to be good antagonists. Molecules that bind well and increase the rate of product production from

substrate are agonists. Detection of the rate or level of production of product from substrate may be enhanced by using a reporter system. Reporter systems that may be useful in this regard include but are not limited to colorimetric labeled substrate converted into product, a reporter gene that is responsive to changes in proS polynucleotide or polypeptide activity, and 5 binding assays known in the art.

Another example of an assay for proS antagonists is a competitive assay that combines proS and a potential antagonist with proS-binding molecules, recombinant proS binding molecules, natural substrates or ligands, or substrate or ligand mimetics, under appropriate conditions for a competitive inhibition assay. proS can be labeled, such as by 10 radioactivity or a colorimetric compound, such that the number of proS molecules bound to a binding molecule or converted to product can be determined accurately to assess the effectiveness of the potential antagonist.

Potential antagonists include small organic molecules, peptides, polypeptides and antibodies that bind to a polynucleotide or polypeptide of the invention and thereby inhibit or 15 extinguish its activity. Potential antagonists also may be small organic molecules, a peptide, a polypeptide such as a closely related protein or antibody that binds the same sites on a binding molecule, such as a binding molecule, without inducing proS-induced activities, thereby preventing the action of proS by excluding proS from binding.

Potential antagonists include a small molecule that binds to and occupies the binding 20 site of the polypeptide thereby preventing binding to cellular binding molecules, such that normal biological activity is prevented. Examples of small molecules include but are not limited to small organic molecules, peptides or peptide-like molecules. Other potential antagonists include antisense molecules (see Okano, *J. Neurochem.* 56: 560 (1991); *OLIGODEOXYNUCLEOTIDES AS ANTISENSE INHIBITORS OF GENE EXPRESSION*, 25 CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (1988), for a description of these molecules). Preferred potential antagonists include compounds related to and variants of proS.

Each of the DNA sequences provided herein may be used in the discovery and development of antibacterial compounds. The encoded protein, upon expression, can be used as a target for the screening of antibacterial drugs. Additionally, the DNA sequences 30 encoding the amino terminal regions of the encoded protein or Shine-Delgarno or other translation facilitating sequences of the respective mRNA can be used to construct antisense sequences to control the expression of the coding sequence of interest.

The invention also provides the use of the polypeptide, polynucleotide or inhibitor of the invention to interfere with the initial physical interaction between a pathogen and mammalian host responsible for sequelae of infection. In particular the molecules of the invention may be used: in the prevention of adhesion of bacteria, in particular gram positive bacteria, to mammalian extracellular matrix proteins on in-dwelling devices or to extracellular matrix proteins in wounds; to block proS protein-mediated mammalian cell invasion by, for example, initiating phosphorylation of mammalian tyrosine kinases (Rosenshine *et al.*, *Infect. Immun.* 60:2211 (1992); to block bacterial adhesion between mammalian extracellular matrix proteins and bacterial proS proteins that mediate tissue damage and; to block the normal progression of pathogenesis in infections initiated other than by the implantation of in-dwelling devices or by other surgical techniques.

The antagonists and agonists of the invention may be employed, for instance, to inhibit and treat otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural empyema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid.

Vaccines

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method for inducing an immunological response in an individual, particularly a mammal which comprises inoculating the individual with proS, or a fragment or variant thereof, adequate to produce antibody and/ or 20 T cell immune response to protect said individual from infection, particularly bacterial infection and most particularly *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection. Also provided are methods whereby such immunological response slows bacterial replication. Yet another aspect of the invention relates to a method of inducing immunological response in an individual which comprises delivering to such individual a nucleic acid vector to direct 25 expression of proS, or a fragment or a variant thereof, for expressing proS, or a fragment or a variant thereof *in vivo* in order to induce an immunological response, such as, to produce antibody and/ or T cell immune response, including, for example, cytokine-producing T cells or cytotoxic T cells, to protect said individual from disease, whether that disease is already established within the individual or not. One way of administering the gene is by 30 accelerating it into the desired cells as a coating on particles or otherwise.

Such nucleic acid vector may comprise DNA, RNA, a modified nucleic acid, or a DNA/RNA hybrid.

A further aspect of the invention relates to an immunological composition which, when introduced into an individual capable or having induced within it an immunological response, induces an immunological response in such individual to a proS or protein coded therefrom, wherein the composition comprises a recombinant proS or protein coded therefrom comprising DNA which codes for and expresses an antigen of said proS or protein coded therefrom. The immunological response may be used therapeutically or prophylactically and may take the form of antibody immunity or cellular immunity such as that arising from CTL or CD4+ T cells.

A proS polypeptide or a fragment thereof may be fused with co-protein which may not by itself produce antibodies, but is capable of stabilizing the first protein and producing a fused protein which will have immunogenic and protective properties. Thus fused recombinant protein, preferably further comprises an antigenic co-protein, such as lipoprotein D from *Hemophilus influenzae*, Glutathione-S-transferase (GST) or beta-galactosidase, relatively large co-proteins which solubilize the protein and facilitate production and purification thereof. Moreover, the co-protein may act as an adjuvant in the sense of providing a generalized stimulation of the immune system. The co-protein may be attached to either the amino or carboxy terminus of the first protein.

Provided by this invention are compositions, particularly vaccine compositions, and methods comprising the polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention and immunostimulatory DNA sequences, such as those described in Sato, Y. *et al.* *Science* 273: 352 (1996).

Also, provided by this invention are methods using the described polynucleotide or particular fragments thereof which have been shown to encode non-variable regions of bacterial cell surface proteins in DNA constructs used in such genetic immunization experiments in animal models of infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* will be particularly useful for identifying protein epitopes able to provoke a prophylactic or therapeutic immune response. It is believed that this approach will allow for the subsequent preparation of monoclonal antibodies of particular value from the requisite organ of the animal successfully resisting or clearing infection for the development of prophylactic agents or therapeutic treatments of bacterial infection, particularly *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection, in mammals, particularly humans.

The polypeptide may be used as an antigen for vaccination of a host to produce specific antibodies which protect against invasion of bacteria, for example by blocking

adherence of bacteria to damaged tissue. Examples of tissue damage include wounds in skin or connective tissue caused, e.g., by mechanical, chemical or thermal damage or by implantation of indwelling devices, or wounds in the mucous membranes, such as the mouth, mammary glands, urethra or vagina.

5 The invention also includes a vaccine formulation which comprises an immunogenic recombinant protein of the invention together with a suitable carrier. Since the protein may be broken down in the stomach, it is preferably administered parenterally, including, for example, administration that is subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or intradermal. Formulations suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-
10 aqueous sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation isotonic with the bodily fluid, preferably the blood, of the individual; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents or thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example, sealed ampules and vials and may be
15 stored in a freeze-dried condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier immediately prior to use. The vaccine formulation may also include adjuvant systems for enhancing the immunogenicity of the formulation, such as oil-in water systems and other systems known in the art. The dosage will depend on the specific activity of the vaccine and can be readily determined by routine experimentation.

20 While the invention has been described with reference to certain proS protein, it is to be understood that this covers fragments of the naturally occurring protein and similar proteins with additions, deletions or substitutions which do not substantially affect the immunogenic properties of the recombinant protein.

Compositions, kits and administration

25 The invention also relates to compositions comprising the polynucleotide or the polypeptides discussed above or their agonists or antagonists. The polypeptides of the invention may be employed in combination with a non-sterile or sterile carrier or carriers for use with cells, tissues or organisms, such as a pharmaceutical carrier suitable for administration to a subject. Such compositions comprise, for instance, a media additive or a
30 therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Such carriers may include, but are not limited to, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, ethanol and combinations thereof. The formulation should suit the mode of administration. The invention further relates to diagnostic and

pharmaceutical packs and kits comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the aforementioned compositions of the invention.

Polypeptides and other compounds of the invention may be employed alone or in conjunction with other compounds, such as therapeutic compounds.

5 The pharmaceutical compositions may be administered in any effective, convenient manner including, for instance, administration by topical, oral, anal, vaginal, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intranasal or intradermal routes among others.

10 In therapy or as a prophylactic, the active agent may be administered to an individual as an injectable composition, for example as a sterile aqueous dispersion, preferably isotonic.

15 Alternatively the composition may be formulated for topical application for example in the form of ointments, creams, lotions, eye ointments, eye drops, ear drops, mouthwash, impregnated dressings and sutures and aerosols, and may contain appropriate conventional additives, including, for example, preservatives, solvents to assist drug penetration, and emollients in ointments and creams. Such topical formulations may also contain compatible conventional carriers, for example cream or ointment bases, and ethanol or oleyl alcohol for lotions. Such carriers may constitute from about 1% to about 98% by weight of the formulation; more usually they will constitute up to about 80% by weight of the formulation.

20 For administration to mammals, and particularly humans, it is expected that the daily dosage level of the active agent will be from 0.01 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg, typically around 1 mg/kg. The physician in any event will determine the actual dosage which will be most suitable for an individual and will vary with the age, weight and response of the particular individual. The above dosages are exemplary of the average case. There can, of course, be individual instances where higher or lower dosage ranges are merited, and such are within the scope of this invention.

25 In-dwelling devices include surgical implants, prosthetic devices and catheters, i.e., devices that are introduced to the body of an individual and remain in position for an extended time. Such devices include, for example, artificial joints, heart valves, pacemakers, vascular grafts, vascular catheters, cerebrospinal fluid shunts, urinary catheters, continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) catheters.

30 The composition of the invention may be administered by injection to achieve a systemic effect against relevant bacteria shortly before insertion of an in-dwelling device.

Treatment may be continued after surgery during the in-body time of the device. In addition, the composition could also be used to broaden perioperative cover for any surgical technique to prevent bacterial wound infections, especially *Streptococcus pneumoniae* wound infections.

5 Many orthopaedic surgeons consider that humans with prosthetic joints should be considered for antibiotic prophylaxis before dental treatment that could produce a bacteraemia. Late deep infection is a serious complication sometimes leading to loss of the prosthetic joint and is accompanied by significant morbidity and mortality. It may therefore be possible to extend the use of the active agent as a replacement for prophylactic 10 antibiotics in this situation.

In addition to the therapy described above, the compositions of this invention may be used generally as a wound treatment agent to prevent adhesion of bacteria to matrix proteins exposed in wound tissue and for prophylactic use in dental treatment as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, antibiotic prophylaxis.

15 Alternatively, the composition of the invention may be used to bathe an indwelling device immediately before insertion. The active agent will preferably be present at a concentration of 1 μ g/ml to 10mg/ml for bathing of wounds or indwelling devices.

A vaccine composition is conveniently in injectable form. Conventional adjuvants may be employed to enhance the immune response. A suitable unit dose for vaccination is 20 0.5-5 microgram/kg of antigen, and such dose is preferably administered 1-3 times and with an interval of 1-3 weeks. With the indicated dose range, no adverse toxicological effects will be observed with the compounds of the invention which would preclude their administration to suitable individuals.

Each reference disclosed herein is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. 25 Any patent application to which this application claims priority is also incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

EXAMPLES

The examples below are carried out using standard techniques, which are well known and routine to those of skill in the art, except where otherwise described in detail. The 30 examples are illustrative, but do not limit the invention.

Example 1 Strain selection, Library Production and Sequencing

The polynucleotide having the DNA sequences given in SEQ ID NO:1 and 3 were obtained from a library of clones of chromosomal DNA of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in *E.*

coli. The sequencing data from two or more clones containing overlapping *Streptococcus pneumoniae* DNAs was used to construct the contiguous DNA sequence in SEQ ID NO:1 and 3. Libraries may be prepared by routine methods, for example: Methods 1 and 2 below.

5 Total cellular DNA is isolated from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 0100993 according to standard procedures and size-fractionated by either of two methods.

Method 1

10 Total cellular DNA is mechanically sheared by passage through a needle in order to size-fractionate according to standard procedures. DNA fragments of up to 11kbp in size are rendered blunt by treatment with exonuclease and DNA polymerase, and EcoRI linkers added. Fragments are ligated into the vector Lambda ZapII that has been cut with EcoRI, the library packaged by standard procedures and *E.coli* infected with the packaged library. The library is amplified by standard procedures.

Method 2

15 Total cellular DNA is partially hydrolyzed with a one or a combination of restriction enzymes appropriate to generate a series of fragments for cloning into library vectors (e.g., RsaI, PstI, AluI, Bsh1235I), and such fragments are size-fractionated according to standard procedures. EcoRI linkers are ligated to the DNA and the fragments then ligated into the vector Lambda ZapII that have been cut with EcoRI, the library 20 packaged by standard procedures, and *E.coli* infected with the packaged library. The library is amplified by standard procedures.

Example 2 proS Characterization

25 The enzyme mediated incorporation of radiolabelled amino acid into tRNA may be measured by the aminoacylation method which measures amino acid-tRNA as trichloroacetic acid-precipitable radioactivity from radiolabelled amino acid in the presence of tRNA and ATP (Hughes J, Mellows G and Soughion S, 1980, FEBS Letters, 122:322-324). Thus inhibitors of prolyl tRNA synthetase can be detected by a reduction in the trichloroacetic acid precipitable radioactivity relative to the control. Alternatively the tRNA synthetase catalysed partial PPi/ATP exchange reaction which measures the formation of 30 radiolabelled ATP from PPi can be used to detect prolyl tRNA synthetase inhibitors (Calender R & Berg P, 1966, Biochemistry, 5, 1681-1690).

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

(i) APPLICANT: Lawlor, Elizabeth

(ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: Novel Compounds

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

- (A) ADDRESSEE: SmithKline Beecham Corporation
- (B) STREET: 709 Swedeland Road
- (C) CITY: King of Prussia
- (D) STATE: PA
- (E) COUNTRY: USA
- (F) ZIP: 19406-0939

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
- (B) FILING DATE: 18-APR-1997
- (C) CLASSIFICATION:

(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 9607991.8
- (B) FILING DATE: 18-APR-1996

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

- (A) NAME: Gimmi, Edward R
- (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 38,891
- (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: P31458-6

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

- (A) TELEPHONE: 610-270-4478
- (B) TELEFAX: 610-270-5090
- (C) TELEX:

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1651 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: Genomic DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

ATGAAACAAA	GTAAAATGCC	TATCCCAACG	CTTCGCGAAA	TGCCAAGCGA	TGCTCAAGTT	60
ATCAGCCATG	CTCTTATGTT	CGGTGCTGGT	TATGTTGCC	AAGTTTCAGC	AGGTGTTTAT	120
TCTTATCTAC	CACTTGCCAA	CCGTGTGATT	AAAAAGCTA	AAAACATCAT	GCGCCAAGAA	180
TTCGAAAAGA	TTGGTGTGTT	TGAGATGTTG	GCTCCAGCCC	TTCTTAGTGC	AGAATTGTGG	240
CGTGAA'TCAG	GTCGTTACGA	AACCTATGGT	GAAGACCTT	ACAAACTGAA	AAACCGTGAA	300
AAATCAGACT	TTATCTTAGG	TCCAACTCAC	GAAGAACCT	TTACAGCTAT	TGTCCGTGAT	360
TCTGTTAAAT	CTTACAAGCA	ATTGCCACTC	AACCTTTATC	AAATTCAAGCC	CAAGTATCGT	420
GATGAAAAAC	GCCCACGTAA	TGGACTTCTT	CGTACACGTG	AGTTTATCAT	GAAGGATGCT	480
TATAGTTCC	ACGCTAACTA	TGATAGTTG	GATAGTGT	ATGATGAGTA	CAAAGCAGCC	540
TATGAGCGTA	TTTCACTCG	TAGTGGTTA	GACTTCAAGG	CTATTATTGG	TGACGGTGGA	600
GCCATGGGTG	GTAAGGATAG	CCAAGAATT	ATGGCCATTA	GGCCTATCTG	CCGTACAGAC	660
CTTGACCGCT	GGGTTGTCTT	GGACAAGTCA	GTTGCCTCAT	TTGACGAAAT	TCCTGCAGAA	720
GTGCAAGAAG	AAATCAAGGC	AGAATTGCTC	AAATGGATAG	TCTCTGGTGA	AGATACCATT	780
GCTTACTCAA	GTGAGTCTAG	CTATGCAGCT	AACTTAGAAA	TGGCAACAAA	CGAGTACAAA	840
CCAAGCAACC	GTGTTGTCGC	TGAAGAAGAA	GTTACTCGTG	TTGAAACGCC	AGATGTTAAA	900
TCAATTGATG	AAGTTGCAGC	CTTCCTCAAT	GTTCCAGAAG	AACAAACGAT	AAAAACCCCTC	960
TTCTACATTG	CAGATGGTGA	GCTTGGTGC	GCCCTTCTAG	TTGGAAATGA	CCAACCTAAC	1020
GAAGTCAAGT	TGAAAATCA	CTTGGGAGCA	AATTCTTTG	ACGTTGCTAG	CGAAGAAGAA	1080
GTGGCGAATG	TTGTTCAAGC	AGGATTGGT	TCACTTGGAC	CAGTTGGTT	GCCAGAGAAT	1140
ATTAAAATTA	TTGCAGATCG	TAAGGTGCAA	GATGTTCGCA	ATGCAGTTGT	CGGTGCTAAC	1200
GAAGATGGCT	ACCACTTGAC	TGGTGTGAAC	CCAGGCCGTG	ATTTTACTGC	AGAATATGTG	1260
GATATCCGTG	AAGTTCGTGA	GGGTGAAATT	TCCCCAGATG	GACAAGGTGT	CCTTAAC	1320
GCGCGTGGTA	TTGAGATCGG	TCATATTTC	AAACTCGGAA	CTCGCTATTC	AGCAAGCATG	1380
GGAGCAGATG	TCTTGGATGA	AAATGGTCGT	GCTGTGCCAA	TCATCATGGG	ATGTTACGGT	1440
ATCGGTGTCA	GCCGTCTTCT	TTCAGCAGTG	ATGGAGCAAC	ACGCTCGCCT	CTTTGTTAAC	1500
AAAACGCCAA	AAGGTGAATA	CCGTTACGCT	TGGGAATCA	ATTCCTCAA	AGAATTGGCA	1560
CCATTGATG	TGCATTGAT	TACTGTTAAT	GTCAAGGATG	AAGAAGCGCA	AGCCTTGACA	1620
GAAAAACTTG	AAGCAAGCTT	GATGGGAGAT	C			1651

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 550 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met	Lys	Gln	Ser	Lys	Met	Pro	Ile	Pro	Thr	Leu	Arg	Glu	Met	Pro	Ser
1					5				10				15		
Asp	Ala	Gln	Val	Ile	Ser	His	Ala	Leu	Met	Leu	Arg	Ala	Gly	Tyr	Val
									25				30		
Arg	Gln	Val	Ser	Ala	Gly	Val	Tyr	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Asn	Arg
									40				45		
Val	Ile	Glu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Asn	Ile	Met	Arg	Gln	Glu	Phe	Glu	Lys	Ile
								50	55			60			
Gly	Ala	Val	Glu	Met	Leu	Ala	Pro	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ser	Ala	Glu	Leu	Trp
								65	70		75		80		
Arg	Glu	Ser	Gly	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Thr	Tyr	Gly	Glu	Asp	Leu	Tyr	Lys	Leu
								85		90			95		
Lys	Asn	Arg	Glu	Lys	Ser	Asp	Phe	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Thr	His	Glu	Glu
								100		105			110		
Thr	Phe	Thr	Ala	Ile	Val	Arg	Asp	Ser	Val	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Lys	Gln	Leu
								115		120			125		
Pro	Leu	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Gln	Ile	Gln	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Arg	Asp	Glu	Lys	Arg
								130		135			140		
Pro	Arg	Asn	Gly	Leu	Leu	Arg	Thr	Arg	Glu	Phe	Ile	Met	Lys	Asp	Ala
								145		150		155		160	
Tyr	Ser	Phe	His	Ala	Asn	Tyr	Asp	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ser	Val	Tyr	Asp	Glu
								165		170			175		
Tyr	Lys	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Glu	Arg	Ile	Phe	Thr	Arg	Ser	Gly	Leu	Asp	Phe
								180		185			190		
Lys	Ala	Ile	Ile	Gly	Asp	Gly	Gly	Ala	Met	Gly	Gly	Lys	Asp	Ser	Gln
								195		200			205		
Glu	Phe	Met	Ala	Ile	Arg	Pro	Ile	Cys	Arg	Thr	Asp	Leu	Asp	Arg	Trp
								210		215			220		
Val	Val	Leu	Asp	Lys	Ser	Val	Ala	Ser	Phe	Asp	Glu	Ile	Pro	Ala	Glu
								225		230		235		240	
Val	Gln	Glu	Glu	Ile	Lys	Ala	Glu	Leu	Leu	Lys	Trp	Ile	Vai	Ser	Gly
								245		250			255		

Glu	Asp	Thr	Ile	Ala	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Glu	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Asn	Leu
260								265				270			
Glu	Met	Ala	Thr	Asn	Glu	Tyr	Lys	Pro	Ser	Asn	Arg	Val	Val	Ala	Glu
275								280				285			
Glu	Glu	Val	Thr	Arg	Val	Glu	Thr	Pro	Asp	Val	Lys	Ser	Ile	Asp	Glu
290								295				300			
Val	Ala	Ala	Phe	Leu	Asn	Val	Pro	Glu	Glu	Gln	Thr	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu
305								310			315				320
Phe	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Asp	Gly	Glu	Leu	Val	Ala	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	Gly	Asn
								325			330				335
Asp	Gln	Leu	Asn	Glu	Val	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asn	His	Leu	Gly	Ala	Asn	Phe
								340			345				350
Phe	Asp	Val	Ala	Ser	Glu	Glu	Val	Ala	Asn	Val	Val	Gln	Ala	Gly	
								355			360				365
Phe	Gly	Ser	Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Gly	Leu	Pro	Glu	Asn	Ile	Lys	Ile	Ile
								370			375				380
Ala	Asp	Arg	Lys	Val	Gln	Asp	Val	Arg	Asn	Ala	Val	Val	Gly	Ala	Asn
385								390			395				400
Glu	Asp	Gly	Tyr	His	Leu	Thr	Gly	Val	Asn	Pro	Gly	Arg	Asp	Phe	Thr
								405			410				415
Ala	Glu	Tyr	Val	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu	Val	Arg	Glu	Gly	Glu	Ile	Ser	Pro
								420			425				430
Asp	Gly	Gln	Gly	Val	Leu	Asn	Phe	Ala	Arg	Gly	Ile	Glu	Ile	Gly	His
								435			440				445
Ile	Phe	Lys	Leu	Gly	Thr	Arg	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Ser	Met	Gly	Ala	Asp	Val
								450			455				460
Leu	Asp	Glu	Asn	Gly	Arg	Ala	Val	Pro	Ile	Ile	Met	Gly	Cys	Tyr	Gly
465								470			475				480
Ile	Gly	Val	Ser	Arg	Leu	Leu	Ser	Ala	Val	Met	Glu	Gln	His	Ala	Arg
								485			490				495
Leu	Phe	Val	Asn	Lys	Thr	Pro	Lys	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Trp	Gly
								500			505				510
Ile	Asn	Phe	Pro	Lys	Glu	Leu	Ala	Pro	Phe	Asp	Val	His	Leu	Ile	Thr
								515			520				525
Val	Asn	Val	Lys	Asp	Glu	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ala	Leu	Thr	Glu	Lys	Leu	Glu
								530			535				540
Ala	Ser	Leu	Met	Gly	Asp										
								545			550				

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 487 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: Genomic DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

TTGAAAAAGC TAAAAAACAT CATGCGCAA GAATTGAAA AGATTGGTGC TGTTGAGATG	60
TTGGCTCCAG CCCTTCTTAG TGCAGAATTG TGGCGTGAAT CAGGTCGTTA CGAACGTAT	120
GGTGAAGACC TTTACAAACT GAAAAACCGT GAAAAATCAG ACTTTATCTT AGGTCCAAC	180
CACGAAGAAA CCTTTACAGC TATTGTCGT GATTCTGTTA AATCTTACAA GCAATTGCCA	240
CTCAACCTTT ATCAAATTCA GCCAAGTAT CGTGATGAAA AACGCCACG TAATGGACTT	300
CTTCGTACAC GTGAGTTAT CATGAAGGAT GCTTATAGTT TCCACGCTAA CTATGATAGT	360
TTGGATAGTG TTTATGATGA GTACAAAGCA GCCTATGAGC GTATTTCAC TCGTAGTGGT	420
TTAGACTTCA AGGCTATTAT TGGTGACGGT GGAGCCATGG GTGGTAAGGA TAGCCAAGAA	480
TTTATGG	487

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 162 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Leu Lys Lys Leu Lys Asn Ile Met Arg Gln Glu Phe Glu Lys Ile Gly			
1	5	10	15
Ala Val Glu Met Leu Ala Pro Ala Leu Leu Ser Ala Glu Leu Trp Arg			
20	25	30	
Glu Ser Gly Arg Tyr Glu Thr Tyr Gly Glu Asp Leu Tyr Lys Leu Lys			
35	40	45	
Asn Arg Glu Lys Ser Asp Phe Ile Leu Gly Pro Thr His Glu Glu Thr			
50	55	60	
Phe Thr Ala Ile Val Arg Asp Ser Val Lys Ser Tyr Lys Gln Leu Pro			
65	70	75	80
Leu Asn Leu Tyr Gln Ile Gln Pro Lys Tyr Arg Asp Glu Lys Arg Pro			
85	90	95	
Arg Asn Gly Leu Leu Arg Thr Arg Glu Phe Ile Met Lys Asp Ala Tyr			
100	105	110	

Ser Phe His Ala Asn Tyr Asp Ser Leu Asp Ser Val Tyr Asp Glu Tyr
115 120 125
Lys Ala Ala Tyr Glu Arg Ile Phe Thr Arg Ser Gly Leu Asp Phe Lys
130 135 140
Ala Ile Ile Gly Asp Gly Gly Ala Met Gly Lys Asp Ser Gln Glu
145 150 155 160
Phe Met

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide having at least a 70% identity to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;
 - (b) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a);
 - (c) a polynucleotide having at least a 70% identity to a polynucleotide encoding the same mature polypeptide expressed by the proS gene contained in the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* of the deposited strain; and
 - (d) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 sequential bases of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).
2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.
3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.
4. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 comprising the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or 3.
5. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 comprising nucleotide 1 to 1648 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
6. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.
7. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
8. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 7.
9. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 8 a polypeptide encoded by said DNA.
10. A process for producing a proS polypeptide or fragment comprising culturing a host of claim 8 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide or fragment.
11. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.
12. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.
13. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 11.
14. An antagonist which inhibits the activity or expression of the polypeptide of claim 11.

15. A method for the treatment of an individual in need of proS polypeptide comprising: administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 11.

16. A method for the treatment of an individual having need to inhibit proS 5 polypeptide comprising: administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the antagonist of Claim 14.

17. A process for diagnosing a disease related to expression or activity of the polypeptide of claim 11 in an individual comprising:

10 (a) determining a nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide, and/or
(b) analyzing for the presence or amount of said polypeptide in a sample derived from the individual.

18. A method for identifying compounds which interact with and inhibit or activate an activity of the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

15 contacting a composition comprising the polypeptide with the compound to be screened under conditions to permit interaction between the compound and the polypeptide to assess the interaction of a compound, such interaction being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the interaction of the polypeptide with the compound;

20 and determining whether the compound interacts with and activates or inhibits an activity of the polypeptide by detecting the presence or absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the compound with the polypeptide.

19. A method for inducing an immunological response in a mammal which comprises inoculating the mammal with proS polypeptide of claim 11, or a fragment or variant thereof, adequate to produce antibody and/or T cell immune response to protect said 25 animal from disease.

20. A method of inducing immunological response in a mammal which comprises delivering a nucleic acid vector to direct expression of proS polypeptide of claim 11, or fragment or a variant thereof, for expressing said proS polypeptide, or a fragment or a variant thereof *in vivo* in order to induce an immunological response to produce antibody 30 and/ or T cell immune response to protect said animal from disease.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/06446

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) A61K 39/02; A01N 43/04; C07H 21/04; C07K 1/00, 16/00; C12N 15/00

US CL 424/190.1; 435/320.1, 325; 514/44; 530/350, 387.9; 536/23.7

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 424/190.1; 435/320.1, 325; 514/44; 530/350, 387.9; 536/23.7

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, CA, CAPLUS, EMBASE, WPIDS, SEQ SEARCH

terms: proS, tRNA synthetase, Streptococcus

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	ERIANI et al. Partition of tRNA synthetases into two classes based on mutually exclusive sets of sequence motifs. Nature. 13 September 1990, Vol. 347, pages 203-206, see entire document.	1-20
A	FLEISCHMANN et al. Whole-Genome Random Sequencing and Assembly of Haemophilus influenzae Rd. Science 28 July 1995, Vol. 269, pages 496-512, see entire document.	1-20
A	JEANNIN et al. Aminoacylation of Phaseolus Vulgaris Cytoplasmic, Chloroplastic and Mitochondrial tRNAsPro and tRNAsLys By Homologous and Heterologous Enzymes. Biochimica et Biophysica Acta. 02 August 1976, Vol. 442, pages 24-31, see entire document.	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*"L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
*"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, i.e. exhibition or other means		
*"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 JULY 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 JUL 1997

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/06446

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	MEI TING et al. Isolation of Prolyl-tRNA Synthetase as a Free Form and as a Form Associated with Glutamyl-tRNA Synthetase. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 05 September 1992, Vol. 267, pages 17701-17709, see entire document.	1-20